

# SPAWN

IS

# AMAZING

APPROVED  
BY THE  
IMAGE  
COMICS  
AUTHORITY

DIGITAL  
EDITION

221  
JUL.

THOUGH  
THE WORLD  
MAY CLAMOR  
FOR THE  
HEALING  
POWER OF  
JIM  
DOWNING...

...IT WILL  
SOON  
COWER  
AT THE  
FEARSOME  
IMAGE OF  
SPAWN!







## PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Following his defeat of Malebolgia's Earthly vessel, Jim's attention turns toward piecing together the final mysteries of his previous life – a life tied closely to key events and characters from throughout the Spawn universe.

Using half-remembered events as a guide, Jim starts his search for answers at an abandoned facility in Argentina, just as a team of mercenaries attempts to wipe the site of any useful data. Someone wants Jim's past to stay buried.

Later, Jim once again steps in front of the media to make a special announcement – "Rat City" is no more, to be replaced by an all-new, revitalized city district, though Jim's full intent with the site remains to be seen.



**Jim Downing (Spawn)** – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn... and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



**The Program** – A clandestine military operation with deep-rooted ties to events from throughout Spawn's 20-year existence. Hidden within the secrets of The Program lies the truth Jim seeks, and the dark heart of a past better left buried.



**K7-Leetha** – The hell-born symbiote that was once bound to Al Simmons, is now attached to Jim Downing. As the symbiote begins to slowly exert more influence only time will tell just how dangerous this loyal soldier of Hell truly is.



**Richard Masullo (Tremor)** – Transformed into the hulking monster known as Tremor by the same clandestine government program that Jim Downing once oversaw, Richard is a man on a mission, crossing the country to confront Jim about their shared past – but is he friend or foe?

# TODD McFARLANE

WRITER/PLOT

# SZYMON KUDRANSKI

ART

# FCO PLASCENCIA

COLOR

# TOM ORZECOWSKI

LETTERING

# JON GOFF

PLOT

# TODD McFARLANE

PARODY COVER

# TODD McFARLANE

EDITOR

Managing Editor  
JEN CASSIDY

Art Director  
BEN TIMMRECK

Publisher For Image Comics  
ERIC STEPHENSON


SPAWN CREATED BY  
TODD McFARLANE

**image**

**TODD McFARLANE**  
PRODUCTIONS  
**SPAWN.COM**

Spawn #221. Digital Edition. Published by IMAGE COMICS, 2134 Alston Way, Second Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704, \$2.99 USA. Spawn, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks © 2012 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are TM and © 2012 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. The characters, events and stories in this publication are entirely fictional. With exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc.





IT'S TOO LATE.

THAT'S THE THING YOU WILL  
NEVER UNDERSTAND. ONCE  
YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN... IT'S  
TOO LATE TO TURN BACK.

TOO LATE TO EVER REGAIN THE  
HUMANITY YOU ONCE HAD.

BECAUSE WHEN GOD CREATED  
MAN HE GAVE HIM THE CAPACITY  
OF SIN AND WITH THAT CAME AN  
OPENING FOR US TO CORRUPT  
HIS DESIGN FLAW.

GOD MADE THE  
FATAL MISTAKE OF  
MAKING HIS NEW  
CREATIONS  
'IMPERFECT.'






SO THEY ALL BECAME  
ADDICTED TO IT.

SOON THEY DEVELOPED  
A DESIRE FOR THEIR  
SINS, AND AS TIME WENT  
BY, THOSE DESIRES  
TURNED TO A DARK  
CRAVING, A LUST,


ONE THAT COULDN'T  
BE SATIATED.



THAT'S WHEN  
WE CAME --  
WHEN WE  
POURED  
OVER THEM.




DROWNING THEM IN  
THEIR OWN DESIRES.



UNTIL EACH AND EVERY ONE  
OF THEM TIGHTLY CLUNG TO  
THE **ONE** THING GOD MEANT  
TO ELIMINATE. THE COLD, DARK  
EMBRACE OF... **EVIL!**





AND FOR YOU, JIM  
DOWNING, THAT'S  
WHERE I COME IN.  
THAT PAIN YOU FEEL  
INSIDE-- IS ME--  
YOUR COSTUME.


I'M THE ADDICTION  
COURSING THROUGH  
YOUR VEINS.

I'M YOUR EVIL.

AND AS MUCH AS YOU  
MIGHT TRY TO BREAK THAT  
LINK, THE THING THAT  
WILL ALWAYS BE TRUE  
FOR YOU HUMANS  
IS THAT, WHEN YOU'RE  
BEING CONSUMED BY  
YOUR ADDICTION...

...YOU'RE THE  
LAST ONE TO  
KNOW IT!





AS AN ADDICT, YOU WILL NEVER ADMIT THAT THERE'S EVEN A PROBLEM-- OR THAT YOU ARE HARMING YOURSELF AND OTHERS. INSTEAD, YOU'LL DENY THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THAT WHICH IS DESTROYING YOU.

CLINGING FOOLISHLY TO THE 'LINK' YOU MIGHT HOLD WITH HEAVEN. TRYING TO RATIONALIZE THAT WHATEVER IS HAPPENING TO YOU WON'T TOUCH YOUR SOUL.



BUT THAT'S THE MOMENT IT HAPPENS.



THAT'S WHEN I DEVOUR YOU AND YOUR FREE WILL.



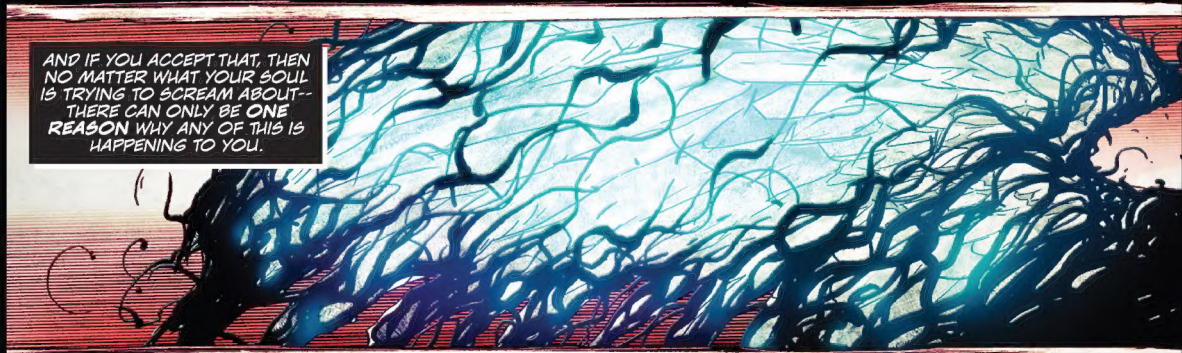
AND THAT'S WHEN WE COMPLETE YOUR TRANSFORMATION.



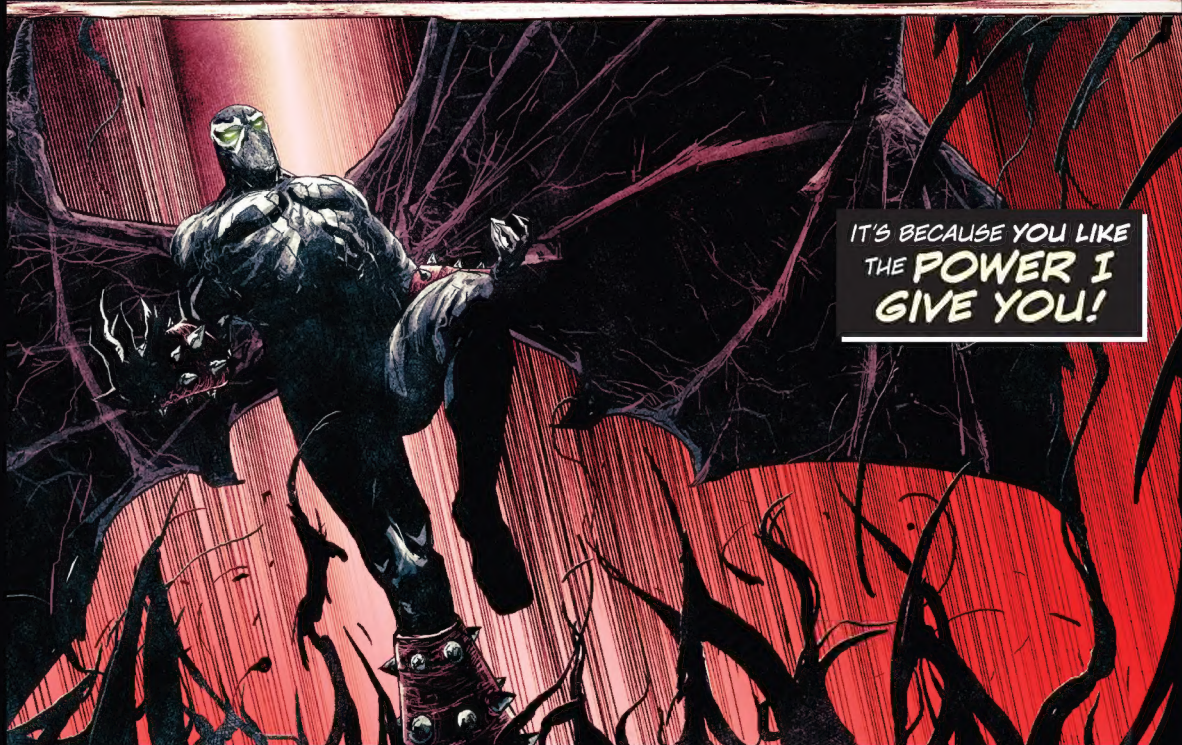


WHEN IT ALL BECOMES  
PERMANENT!

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T  
BELIEVE I'M TAKING OVER YOUR  
BODY-- OR THAT I EVEN EXIST--  
THEN EVERYTHING YOU DO,  
EVERY ACTION YOU TAKE  
MUST BE YOUR OWN.

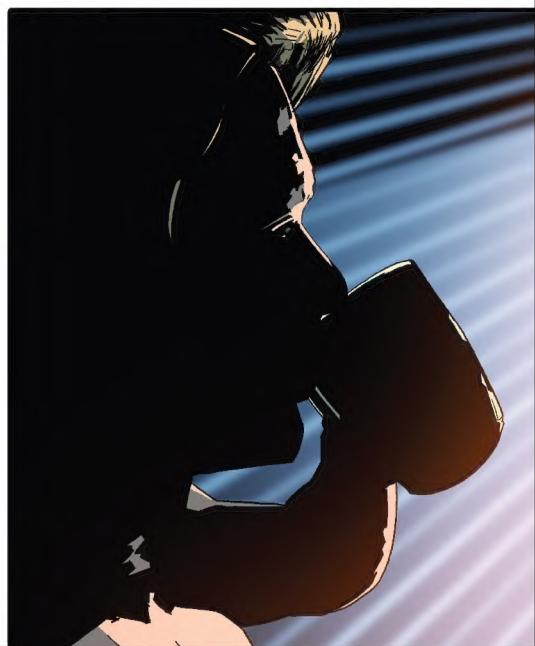


AND IF YOU ACCEPT THAT, THEN  
NO MATTER WHAT YOUR SOUL  
IS TRYING TO SCREAM ABOUT--  
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE  
REASON WHY ANY OF THIS IS  
HAPPENING TO YOU.



IT'S BECAUSE YOU LIKE  
THE **POWER** I  
GIVE YOU!







2 Days Ago.

BECAUSE  
LEADING TWO  
LIVES IS  
GRINDING ME  
DOWN.

HAVE D.N.A.  
AND BLOOD  
SAMPLES BEEN  
SENT OUT?

YEAH.  
LABS SAID  
THEY'D RUSH THE  
RESULTS.

WHAT  
ABOUT THE  
BIOPSY AND  
MOLECULAR  
TESTS?

I CAN'T  
KEEP UP  
THIS PACE.

THOSE  
ARE  
COMING,  
TOO.

THAT'S THE  
LAST CONTRACT  
YOU NEED TO SIGN,  
MR. DOWNING. I'LL  
MAKE SURE EVERYONE  
RECEIVES A PROPER  
COPY AND WE'LL  
FILE THEM WITH  
THE GOVERNMENT  
FIRST THING  
TOMORROW.

YOUR  
FOUNDATION  
IS OFFICIALLY UP  
AND RUNNING.  
ALSO, THE TITLES  
TO THE REAL  
ESTATE YOU JUST  
PURCHASED WILL  
BE IN YOUR  
HANDS IN THE  
MORNING.





Yesterday.



OF COURSE WE'D BE INTERESTED IN MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR FOUNDATION, JIM. EVERYONE HERE AT THE BANK HAS BEEN FOLLOWING YOU ON T.V. AND IN THE PAPERS WITH KEEN INTEREST. MYSELF INCLUDED.



'THE PROJECT'. YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT IT.



JUST KEEP WALKING, JIM... AND SEE IF YOU CAN'T SMILE A LITTLE. PEOPLE LOVE TO READ ABOUT HAPPY CELEBRITIES.

YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M JUST... I STILL NEED SOME TIME TO GET USE TO ALL THIS.

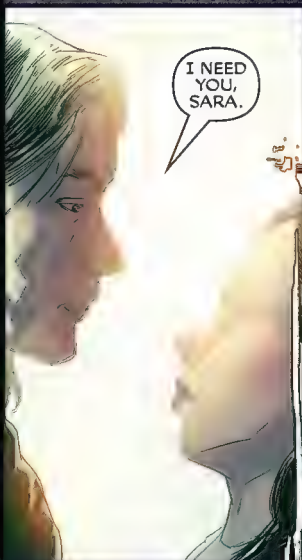


GODDAMMIT! WE DON'T KNOW NOTHING ABOUT 'THE PROJECT'!

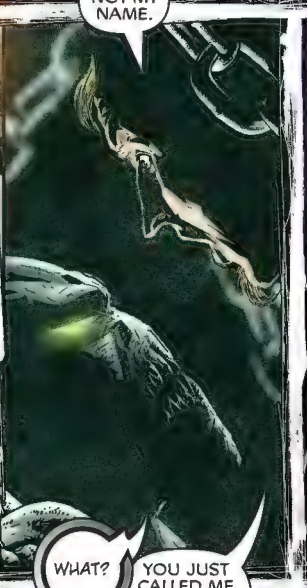
choke!

THEY WOULDN'T TELL US ANYTHING.





I NEED YOU, SARA.



THAT'S NOT MY NAME.

WHAT?

YOU JUST CALLED ME SARA. THAT... ISN'T MY NAME.



NOPE.

DEFINITELY CAN'T KEEP UP THAT PACE. CAN'T EVEN TELL WHAT'S REAL AND WHAT'S NOT.



IT'S THOSE DAMN FILES.\* THEY'VE GOT ME CHASING MY OWN TAIL.

\*See last issue--- Todd



BUT I KNOW THEY HAVE TO HOLD SOME ANSWERS.



WHO AM I??



I JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO UNLOCK THEM.

PROJECT

PROJECT



HOW TO  
CONNECT  
ALL THESE  
EVENTS AND  
PEOPLE.



BECAUSE  
SOMEHOW  
IT ALL  
LEADS  
BACK  
TO ME.



**KNOCK  
KNOCK**









WHAT IS IT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT IS IT?! IT'S A CALENDAR! AND THAT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN ALL THE OTHER CRAP THEY WERE SELLING.

WHERE'D YOU GET THIS?

LOOK, I UNDERSTAND YOU DON'T WANT TO RUN EVERYTHING BY ME-- THAT'S FINE-- BUT THE LICENSING STUFF SHOULD...



I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!

NOW SHOW ME WHERE YOU GOT THIS!



Shit.

YEP, THAT'S WHAT I SAID.



HATS. POSTERS. T-SHIRTS. YOU NAME IT... THEY'VE GOT IT!





I'M SORRY,  
MR. DOWNING...  
BUT HE'S BUSY NOW.  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO  
SCHEDULE FOR  
TOMORROW?







OH, COME NOW-- DON'T LOOK SO STUNNED. SURELY YOU DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO JUST FUND YOUR FOUNDATION'S ENDEAVORS WITHOUT HAVING SOME CONTROL OVER YOU... OR YOUR IMAGE.


IT WAS ALL RIGHT THERE IN THE CONTRACT-- IF YOU'D JUST TAKEN TIME TO READ IT. INSTEAD YOU WANTED TO BLACK-MAIL ME INTO FUNDING YOUR CHARITY. SO... TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY. YOU GET YOUR POUND OF FLESH BY EXTRACTING CASH.

WHILE I GET MINE BY HAVING ALL LEGAL RIGHTS TO YOUR PERSONA. AND THE PRODUCTION OF EVERYTHING YOU SAW IN THAT STORE-- OF WHICH I OWN-- IS JUST GETTING RAMPED UP.



I'LL SUE YOU!


YOU CAN TRY. THOUGH I DOUBT YOU'D WIN. PLUS, IT WOULDN'T LOOK SO GOOD TO THE PUBLIC IF YOU WERE TO SUE THE PERSON WHO IS SO WILLING TO HELP YOU ASSIST THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN OURSELVES.



HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY SENT IN THEIR APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF YOU BESTOWING YOUR POWERS ON THEM? I THINK I HEARD IT WAS ABOUT NINE THOUSAND?

IT'S TWELVE.

**TWELVE THOUSAND!** WOW! YOU MUST BE VERY PROUD OF THAT. ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN MEDICAL CLEARANCE TO EVEN BEGIN YOUR PROCESS YET. STILL... WE COULD START DOING WORK AT THE BUILDING SITE YOU RECENTLY PURCHASED. **THAT'S IF...** YOU'D LIKE ME TO STILL BE YOUR PARTNER AND CUT YOU ANOTHER CHECK



YOU DON'T NEED TO ANSWER ME NOW. THINK ABOUT IT AND GET BACK TO ME.

Oh... ONE LAST THING-- I HEARD YOU MADE AN IMPROMPTU TRIP TO ARGENTINA AND GOT YOUR HANDS ON SOME FILES. I'M GLAD YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING YOURSELF BUSY. IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL.



Rat City. Hours Later.







SORRY.  
DIDN'T  
MEAN TO  
STARTLE  
YOU.



WHO  
THE HELL  
ARE  
YOU?!



EASY, BUD!  
I'M NOT LOOKING  
FOR TROUBLE. I  
JUST... I'VE COME A  
LONG WAY TO SEE YOU.\*  
IF YOU COULD GIVE ME  
A COUPLE MINUTES,  
I'LL EXPLAIN WHY  
I'M HERE.

I ALREADY  
KNOW  
WHY YOU'RE  
HERE!

\*Check out the last  
dozen issues -- Todd





AND THE  
ANSWER IS  
NO!

I'M NOT  
HEALING  
YOU OR ANY  
OF YOUR  
LOVED ONES  
TODAY.



unh?

BUD,  
YOU'VE GOT IT  
WRONG. I THINK  
I CAN HELP YOU...  
ACTUALLY I THINK  
WE CAN HELP  
EACH OTHER.



I JUST LEFT  
SOMEONE THAT'S  
**SUPPOSEDLY** HELPING  
ME. INSTEAD HE'S SCREWING  
ME! JUST LIKE EVERYONE  
ELSE THAT SAYS THEY'RE  
TRYING TO HELP! SO GET  
**OUT OF HERE!** I'M NOT IN  
THE MOOD FOR YOUR  
BULLSHIT!



**NO, I  
DON'T!!**

YOU  
DON'T  
REMEMBER  
ME, DO  
YOU?

THEN  
MAYBE  
THIS WILL  
HELP...



OR HAVE YOU  
BLOCKED OUT HOW YOU AND  
'THE PROJECT' TURNED ME INTO...

**TREMOR!**

NEXT: **THE CURE?**







Tyrant  
Lizard  
King

EMPIRE